

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of noise filtering an image sequence (V1), comprising the steps of:

determining a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t , M_i) in at least one image of the image sequence (V1);

5 determining statistics from a said spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t , M_i) in said at least one image of the image sequence (V1); and

calculating at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from the set of original pixel values (P_t , M_i) obtained from ~~the~~ said at
10 least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t , M_i) are weighted under control of the statistics.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of calculating comprises the steps of:

weighting the set of original pixel values (P_t , M_i) under
5 control of the statistics to obtain a weighted set of pixel values (P_t , N_i); and

furnishing the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i) to a static filter, in which the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is calculated from the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein said method further comprising
the step of:

determining a temporal spread (S_{temp}) of a pixel (P_t) of
5 the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) and a corresponding pixel
from at least one other image of the image sequence.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spread (S) is a sum of absolute differences, a given absolute difference being obtained by subtracting an average pixel value from a given original pixel
5 value (P_t, M_i).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) includes a central pixel value (P_t) and surrounding pixel values (M_i), wherein as a result of the noise filtering, the
5 central pixel value (P_t) is replaced by the filtered pixel value (P_t').

6. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2, wherein the set of weighted pixel values (P_t , N_i) is obtained by taking, for each pixel value in the set of original pixel values (P_t , M_i), a combination of a portion α of said each pixel value in the set of original pixel values (P_t , M_i) and a portion $1-\alpha$ of a central pixel value (P_t).

7. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the statistics are furnished to a look-up table, a control signal (α) being obtained from said look-up table, said control signal (α) controlling the weighting.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating a median of the weighted set of pixel values (P_t , N_i).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating an average of the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the spatial spread (S_{spat}) is calculated from spatially displaced original pixel values in the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) ~~and,~~

wherein the temporal spread (S_{temp}) is calculated from temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2}) in the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in said at least one image and in sets of original pixel values in other images in said image sequence; and

~~weighting~~ wherein the spatially displaced original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted under control of the spatial spread (S_{spat}), and the temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2}) are weighted under control of the temporal spread (S_{temp}).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 10, wherein the weighting step comprises:

dividing the weighted temporally displaced original pixel
values ~~(WP₁, WP₂)~~ are ~~divided~~ to lessen their weight in the

5 filtering.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as
claimed in claim 10, wherein the temporally displaced original
pixel values include two original pixel values (P_{t1}, P_{t2}) from
different fields in a same frame (F₀) and at least one original
5 pixel value of a previous frame (F₋₁).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as
claimed in claim 12, wherein said temporally displaced original
pixel values are temporally filtered.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding an image sequence
(V1), said method comprising the steps of:

encoding a plurality of filtered images, wherein the
filtered images are

5 obtained by the steps of:

determining a spatial spread of a set of original pixel
values (P_t, M_i) in each image of the image sequence (V1);

determining statistics from a said spatial spread of a set
of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in each image of the image

10 sequence (V1); and

calculating a filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of
original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from each image, wherein
the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted under control of
the statistics.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for noise filtering an image
sequence, the device comprising:

computing means for determining a spatial spread of a set
of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in at least one image of the

5 image sequence (V1);

computing means for determining statistics from a said
spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in said
at least one image of the image sequence (V1); and

filtering means for calculating at least one filtered
10 pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i)
obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel
values (P_t, M_i) are weighted under control of the statistics.

16. (Currently Amended) A device for encoding an image sequence
(V1), the device comprising:

receiving means for receiving filtered images, ~~—~~; and
a device for generating ~~wherein~~ the filtered images of the
5 image sequence ~~created by a~~, said generating device comprising:
computing means for determining a spatial spread of a set
of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in each image of the image
sequence (V_1) ;
computing means for determining statistics from a said
10 ~~spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i)~~ in each
image of the image sequence (V_1) ; and
filtering means for calculating a filtered pixel value
 (P_t') from ~~a~~ the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained
from each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are
15 weighted under control of the statistics.